

**Subject:** Proposed new definition for students with a hearing loss

**CURRENT DEFINITIONS:**

Chapter 4: Evaluation and Eligibility

B. Disability Categories

**4. Deafness**

~~**Definition:** Deafness is a type of hearing loss that adversely affects educational performance and is so severe that with or without amplification the student is limited in processing linguistic information through hearing.~~

**State Eligibility Criteria for Deafness:** An evaluation team will determine that a student is eligible for special education services as a student who is deaf or hard of hearing when all of the following criteria are met:

- a. An evaluation that meets the procedures outlined in Section 5 of this chapter has been conducted.
- b. The student exhibits a ~~severe~~ hearing loss that hinders his or her ability to ~~process~~ linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification.
- c. The student has been diagnosed by an audiologist ~~as deaf~~.
- d. The student's condition adversely affects educational performance.
- e. The student needs specially designed instruction.

**8. Hearing Impairment**

~~**Definition:** The IDEA disability category of hearing impairment describes a permanent or fluctuating hearing loss that adversely affects a student's educational performance but is not included under the category of deafness.~~

**State Eligibility Criteria for Hearing Impairment:** An evaluation team will determine that a student is eligible for special education services as a student **who is deaf or hard of hearing** ~~with a hearing impairment~~ when all of the following criteria are met:

- a. An evaluation that meets the procedures outlined in Section 5 of this chapter has been conducted.
- ~~b. The student does not qualify as deaf.~~
- c. The student is diagnosed by an ~~otologist, audiologist or physician~~ as having a ~~substantial~~ hearing loss.
- d. The student's condition adversely affects educational performance.
- e. The student needs specially designed instruction.

**PROPOSED NEW COMBINED DEFINITION:**

**4. Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

**Definition:** Deaf or Hard of Hearing means a child with a hearing loss, whether permanent or fluctuating, that impairs the access, comprehension, and/or use of linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, and that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

**State Eligibility Criteria for Deaf or Hard of Hearing:** An evaluation team will determine that a student is eligible for special education services as a student who is deaf or hard of hearing when all of the following criteria are met:

- a. An evaluation that meets the procedures outlined in Section 5 of this chapter has been conducted.
- b. The student exhibits a hearing loss that hinders his or her ability to access, comprehend, and/or use linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification.
- c. The student is diagnosed by an audiologist as having a hearing loss.
- d. The student's condition adversely affects educational performance.
- e. The student needs specially designed instruction.